

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, GR

SUBJECT: BBC I MIDWEEK PROGRAM INTERVIEWS GREEK LEFTISTS

1. AUGUST 21 BBC-TV "MIDWEEK" PROGRAM INTRODUCED BY JULIAN PETTIFER DISCUSSED GREECE AND THE CYPRUS ISSUE. LENGTHY PRESENTATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN GREECE FEATURED ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, MELINA MERCOURI AND THE PRESENT LEADER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN GREECE. ALTHOUGH FAIRLY MODERATE IN TONE, THE INTERVIEWS WERE DEFINITELY ANTI-NATO AND ANTI-AMERICAN AND INCLUDED THE FAMILIAR THEME OF EXCESSIVE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN GREEK AFFAIRS. ALL ADVOCATED THAT GREECE MUST BE AN INDEPENDENT STATE FREE OF FOREIGN MILITARY ENTANGLEMENTS, BASES AND INFLUENCE. GENERALLY, THE PROGRAM WAS EXCELLENT LEFTIST/NEUTRALIST PROPAGANDA. UNFORTUNATELY, EXCEPT FOR DISCUSSING PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' PRESENT PROBLEMS, THERE WERE NO BALANCING ARGUMENTS SUBMITTED TO PUT THE INTERVIEWS IN THEIR PROPER PERSPECTIVE. THE PROGRAM ENDED WITH A SHORT PANEL DISCUSSION BETWEEN LONDON-BASED GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

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2. COMMENT: IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT

TOOK NO ACTIVE PART IN THE PRESENTATION. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BBC WAS UNABLE TO GET ANY BALANCING COMMENT, THE RESULT WAS THAT IT PRESENTED THE COMMUNIST AND LEFTIST FORCES IN GREECE AS THE PROBABLE FUTURE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY.

SOHM

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